



Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association

10 May 2007

Board of Directors
Metropolitan Transportation Agency
1 South Van Ness Ave., Floor 7
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: West Portal Area Parking Spaces for Shared Cars

Dear Directors:

The Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association urges the MTA to provide two parking spaces in the West Portal area for one of the three car share organization active in San Francisco.

We suggest that the parking spaces be located in the MTA parking lot with an automobile entrance on Ulloa Street near the West Portal Metro Station. This would make it convenient for a car sharer to access an automobile from any of five Muni lines or by a short walk from within our neighborhood.

We hope that the increased convenience to rent a car will encourage more of our members, neighbors and others to reduce their number of cars per household and save money while driving less and using transit more. We expect this result based on studies at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition, Muni will benefit from increased ridership and decreased traffic while the earth will benefit from a reduced production of global warming gases.

We also suggest that this loss of parking, for our neighborhood merchants, be replaced by at least two additional meters. We surveyed the streets surrounding the West Portal Station and found about twenty-five curb side, Residential Preferential Parking Permit, two hour time-limited free parking spaces with frontage on non-residential properties. These locations are only a few steps further from West Portal than the MTA lot. In most neighborhoods this kind of space is metered to convert the spaces from mostly long term to short term. This will benefit our merchants. The additional spaces will also be useful to provide necessary meter revenue for Muni operations.

There are now over 200 metered parking curbside spaces on or near West Portal plus off street parking at two MTA lots and four bank parking lots. In addition our area generally has available free parking within a block or two of West Portal Avenue. Therefore, even if the meters cannot be relocated, the lost of two spots while moanful, will not really be missed.

We suggest that the spaces be awarded to the car share firm with the largest number of subscribers with 94116 and 94127 Zip codes as a simple but fair method to select a car share provider. We hope that this will induce all of the car share organizations to seek to provide their services to our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Kruszka
President

cc: Nathaniel Ford, SFMTA, Executive Director
Supervisor Sean Elsbernd